

Message Text

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UNCLAS GENEVA 10861

DEPT PASS CUSTOMS - WILLIAM C. WILKINS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE, ETRN, ETRD
SUBJECT: GROUP OF RAPPORTEURS ON CUSTOMS QUESTION
CONCERNING CONTAINERS (GRCC), 23RD SESSION, JULY
10-13, 1978

REF: STATE A-2388

1. GRCC, CHAIRED BY JOHN P. BENDALL (UNITED KINGDOM),
ADOPTED ITS PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DEALT WITH THE AGENDA
ITEMS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:
2. ITEM FOUR. CHAIRMAN BENDALL DREW ATTENTION OF GRCC
TO FACT THAT THERE WERE CURRENTLY TEN CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO 1975 TIR CONVENTION ON EVE OF FIRST MEETING OF
ITS ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE. AFTER DISCUSSING POSSIBLE
PROBLEM IN FUTURE OF SECURING NECESSARY QUORUM OF ONE HALF
CONTRACTING PARTIES AT MEETINGS OF ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE, GRCC DECIDED TO LIST POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS
AFFECTING TRANSPORT AT ITS 39TH SESSION IN OCTOBER 1978.
3. ITEM THREE. AFTER EXAMINING THE PROBLEMS ARISING
FROM SHIPMENTS MOVING BETWEEN COUNTRIES ADHERING TO
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DIFFERENT TIR CONVENTIONS (1959 V. 1975), GRCC CONCLUDED
THAT THERE WERE NO DEFINITIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS
BUT THAT THE COURSE OF ACTION TO RECOMMEND WAS A VIGOROUS
PROMOTIONAL EFFORT URGING ALL INTERESTED NATIONS TO
ACCEDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE 1975 TIR CONVENTION.

4. ITEM FIVE. UNDER 'OTHER BUSINESS', GRCC CONSIDERED

A PAPER BY THE RAPPORTEUR OF YUGOSLAVIA ON THE POSSIBLE INTERCHANGEABLE USE OF A SINGLE DOCUMENT. GRCC FELT THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS COMPETENT IN CUSTOMS MATTERS, IT NEVERTHELESS LACKED THE COMMERCIAL AND LEGAL EXPERTISE NEEDED TO PURSUE ALL ASPECTS OF THIS PROPOSAL. SINCE UNCTAD WAS ALSO STUDYING THE SUBJECT, GRCC DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS THAT IT CONSIDER RESULTS OF THAT WORK BEFORE PROCEEDING.

5. ITEM FIVE. THE RAPPORTEUR OF POLAND REPORTED THAT CORRESPONDENCE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY IRANIAN CUSTOMS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT UNION COMPLAINING ABOUT THE USE ON TIR SHIPMENTS OF CERTAIN LEAD CUSTOMS SEALS WHICH IT MAINTAINED COULD BE HEATED, DETACHED AND REPLACED WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF TAMPERING. GRCC POINTED OUT THAT A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE CONVENTION WAS BOUND TO ACCEPT SEALS OF THE ORIGINATING CUSTOMS OFFICE, BUT COULD AFFIX ITS OWN SEALS IN ADDITION. IN ANY EVENT, THIS COMPLAINT SHOULD MORE CORRECTLY HAVE BEEN LODGED WITH THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS.

6. ITEM FIVE. THE RAPPORTEUR OF SWEDEN VOICED WISHES OF A SWEDISH MANUFACTURER TO HAVE TIR RULES AMENDED TO ALLOW 300 MM. SPACING BETWEEN TRUCK TRAILER TARPULIN RETAINING RINGS. THE RAPPORTEUR RECOGNIZED THAT GRCC WAS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR THIS REQUEST, BUT NEVERTHELESS WANTED TO

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AIR THE MATTER IN ADVANCE OF ITS PROBABLE PRESENTATION TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS IN OCTOBER.

7. ITEM TWO. GRCC DETERMINED FROM ITS STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERTRANSIT LINK THAT IT SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS THAT AN ENDEAVOR BE MADE FIRST TO DEVELOP A LINK AMONG THE THREE EXISTING REGIONAL EUROPEAN TRANSIT SYSTEMS PLUS THE TIR SYSTEM. CERTAIN BASIC SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN SYSTEMS WERE NOTED AND PROBLEMS LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED IN FORMULATING AN INTERTRANSIT LINK WERE NOTED.

8. GRCC ADOPTED THE COMBINED REPORT OF ITS 22ND AND 23RD SESSIONS (MARCH AND JULY 1978).VANDEN HEUVEL

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